

Filed for intro on 04/16/2001

HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION 238
By Bone

A RESOLUTION To honor and celebrate the 200th anniversary of
the Mt. Olivet Baptist Church in Leeville.

WHEREAS, It is appropriate that the members of this legislative body should recognize those venerable religious institutions and their congregations who, through their unflagging capacity for love, dedication of spirit, and faith in God, strive to enrich the lives of people in their communities; and

WHEREAS, The good people of the Mt. Olivet Baptist Church in Leeville comprise one such congregation, who will be celebrating the Church's Bicentennial Anniversary on Sunday, April 22nd of this year; and

WHEREAS, The celebration will be a time of reflecting on the past, giving thanks for the present, and joyfully anticipating the future; and

WHEREAS, Originally organized as the Big Cedar Lick Church, named after a nearby creek, the Church was founded on April 25, 1801. Since that time, the laity has experienced numerous changes, not only in the lives and hearts of the laypeople and the pastorate, but also in the church structure itself; and

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WHEREAS, During those first organizational days, the group met in the home of Phillip Koonce, which was one mile east of Leeville off of Hickory Ridge Road. The first official pastor wasn't called until a year after their founding; Moore Stevenson was their first pastor and was called to Big Cedar Lick in April of 1802. The congregation met for worship every fourth Saturday and Sunday of each month; and

WHEREAS, Following Jesus' commandments to "go ye forth and preach," the congregation, while still named Big Cedar Lick Church, started eleven other churches in Wilson County; and

WHEREAS, In 1843, the Church's name was changed to Mt. Olivet Church and was moved to 7463 Hickory Ridge Road in Leeville; Mr. James A. Curd donated the property where the church stands today; and

WHEREAS, The present sanctuary was built in the 1850s and has been blessed with the leadership of forty-eight ministers throughout its history; their current pastor is Bro. Gary L. McCaleb; and

WHEREAS, The fine families and their individual members who comprise the membership of the Mt. Olivet Baptist Church's congregation personify Paul's words in I Corinthians 15:58, "Therefore, my beloved brethren, be ye steadfast, unmovable, always abounding in the work of the Lord, for as much as ye know that your labor is not in vain in the Lord."; and

WHEREAS, The Mt. Olivet Baptist Church is truly one of the great religious organizations and catalysts for positive spiritual change in our State and Nation, and the members of this exceptional congregation should be appropriately honored for their exemplary service to their fellow Christians and to the good people of Tennessee; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE ONE HUNDRED SECOND GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE SENATE

CONCURRING, That we honor and join in celebrating the 200th anniversary of the Mt. Olivet Baptist Church on Sunday, April 22, 2001, saluting the congregation's meritorious service to the community, and extending our best wishes to the devoted members of the congregation in all their future endeavors.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That an appropriate copy of this resolution be prepared for presentation with this final clause omitted from such copy.